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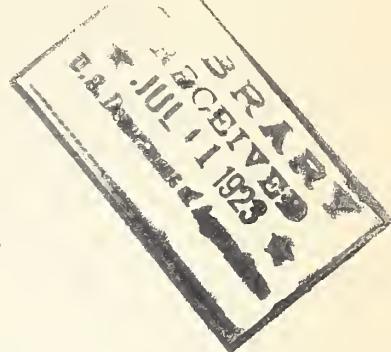


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United States Department of Agriculture,  
Bureau of Biological Survey, for use in local anti-rat  
campaigns.

RATS ON THE INCREASE--  
THEIR DESTRUCTIVENESS SERIOUS.

(After a news item of local rat damage  
the following may be added.)



The more that is learned about the rat the more inimical to the human race is it seen to be. It will steal upon sleeping children and bite them when it gets the chance, and it is pugnacious enough, when cornered, to attack even grown-ups. The value of the foodstuffs, and other commodities that go to the support of the rat population of the United States is scandalous in its proportions, for it runs into millions of dollars annually.

The rat destroys by pollution ten times what it actually eats. Furthermore, it is an incendiary, for often, in more ways than one, it has caused devastating fires. The opprobrious sobriquet of "Robber, the Rat," given to this pest in some children's stories, is thoroughly well deserved. The Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture conservatively estimates that the loss caused by rats in the United States each year amounts to more than \$200,000,000, and the annual loss for the entire world runs into billions.

Severe, however, as are these indictments, it is not its thieving activities alone which condemn the rat. It is a dirty and pernicious beast carrying on its body evil companions in the shape of fleas, and it is these that are responsible for the most atrocious ravages on mankind.

Scientific research has clearly established that it is the flea from the infected rat that conveys the bacillus of bubonic plague to human beings, either by direct infection or at second hand through domestic animals, and for centuries the pages of history have been disfigured by the records of the destruction of life wrought by the "black death." Even at this day, bubonic plague, which has never been stamped out completely, and never can be so long as there is a flea-infested rat alive, is a standing menace to humanity.

The best way of preventing this great loss of property and menace to health caused by rats seems to be through organized rat destruction. Such an enterprise is not so hopeless as at first might appear. An intensive campaign scientifically directed and whole-heartedly entered into would in a few weeks materially reduce rat infestation or possibly exterminate the pests.

To be rid of rats would be worth a thousand times what it might cost, and it is to the interest of every home, high and low, rich and poor, to cooperate earnestly in furthering such a campaign against this filthy and destructive pest.

